

accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO THE CARPENTERS  
LOCAL 1005 OF HOBART, INDIANA

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2007*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and respect that I congratulate the members of Carpenters Local 1005 of Hobart, Indiana, who were honored at the union's 2007 Service Recognition Banquet. The union members of Northwest Indiana have consistently demonstrated the work ethic and quality craftsmanship on which the community prides itself. The banquet, which was held on Saturday, April 14, 2007, at the Avalon Manor in Hobart, Indiana, honored those members who have completed between 10 and 65 years of service with the union.

Carpenters Local 1005, which received its charter on March 7, 1972, is one of the largest Carpenters' locals in the State of Indiana. Every year, Local 1005 honors its members for their years of dedicated service. This year's distinguished honorees included Charles Ray, who was honored for his 65 years of service, as well as Charles Bonner, William Bruce, James Donnell, Chester King, Paul Malott, Oakley Moench, Robert Olson, Elbe Rice, Victor Stanzione, and Robert Szentesy, all members who were honored for 60 years of service. Those who were honored for 55 years of service include: Phillis Angelo, Willard Basco, Earl Cooper, John Demay, Lawrence Dewes, Robert Fedorchak, George Garbus, Duane Hanaway, and Jozef Wozniak. For 50 years of service, the honorees were: Ed Cicillian, Robert Covaciu, David Dunn, Bernard Floyd, Wyvil Gearhart, Carrol Kelley, and Howard Scheidt. Bobby Anderson and J.C. Stanley were recognized for 45 years of service, while several members were honored for 40 years of service. These honorees included: Phillip Bough, James Brannock, Harry Carey, James Fields, Jerry Fox, Joe Gabonay, Joe Harbison, Paul Kirchenstien, Robert Odell, Jack Postma, James Postma, Truman Shelton, Richard Tallant, Robert Todd, Donald Treadway, Loren Underwood, and James Vickers. For their 35 years of service, Roy Balcerak and Richard Kleckner were honored, while the 30-year honorees included: Lucas Amptmeyer, Don Ayers, Wesley Birky, Gerald Blend, Larry Bliss, Elmer Conley, Gerald Donohue, Dale Gearhart, Greg Hanas, Thomas Hill, Daniel Holden, Clyde Imboden, James Jablonski, Richard Liebharth, Leonard Lustgarten, Charles Nannenga, Joseph Pero, Mark Robertson, Rick Singleton, Jerry Vanderplough, Larry Vick, and Michael Zickuhr. The members honored for 25 years of dedicated service were Harris Sampson, Charles Smith, and Bobby Thompson, while 20-year honorees included: Mark Berg, Jeffrey Berkman, Ronald Blaney, Michael Collins, Robert Cook, Brian Deutscher, Timothy Flatt, Roy Guerrero, Lawrence Hill, Stanley Kurczewski, Michael Lelak, David Lopez, Andrew Mitchell, Richard Neal, Robert Ott, Michael Pouch, Dan Prochno, John Schwartz, Ann Starzynski, Charles Stone, Michael Wal-

lace, Frank Westerlund, and Doug Wilson. Those members honored for 15 years of service included: Ronald Bennett, Douglas Bohnert, Carl Depaul, Mark Derosa, Terence Dicken, Joel Edgington, Michael Gajewski, Dennis Glover, Christopher Kerulis, Roger Kikkert, Kenneth Kollasch, Steven Kopack, Michael Lawrence, Samuel Lazaro, Kevin Lynch, Darren Marsee, Kevin Mulroe, Joe Rettig, Thomas Rettig, Nicholas Saliwonczyk, Harold Sills, Patrick Stanley, Albert Turner, Commodore Warren, Kenneth Whitten, William Yuhasz, and Philip Zagone.

Finally, members of Local 1005 honored at the banquet for 10 years of service included: Steve Adams, Erik Bailey, Christopher Birky, Robert Bleck, Scott Blue, Brian Clare, Thomas Climack, Scott Crawford, Tim Crepeau, Anthony Dafcik, Timothy Dekock, Joseph Emons, Joseph Evert, Dustin Farnum, Eddie Fowler, Nathaniel Gaska, Donald Haddix, James Harrison, David Jurov, Douglas Kamminga, Bryan Kowalisyn, Stanley Kush, Aaron Lowe, William Lynch, Jason Marcotte, David Messer, Donald Murphy, John Nygra, Ryan Prendergast, Greg Province, Tony Qualizza, Jason Samuels, Jim Sargent, Larry Scheeringa, James Schultz, Martin Shell, John Stoddard, Antwon Strong, Timothy Sweeney, James Taylor, Catherine Thoreson, and Dan Vanderwall.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, honorable, and outstanding members of Carpenters Local 1005, in addition to the hard-working union men and women throughout the country. The countless hours of exceptional service the men and women of Carpenters Local 1005 have provided to their community deserve our admiration and respect. Their dedication and commitment are the epitome of the values we hold in Northwest Indiana, and I am proud to represent such fine men and women in Congress.

CELEBRATING DR. DOROTHY I.  
HEIGHT, A LIVING LEGEND AND  
ADVOCATE FOR JUSTICE AND  
EQUALITY

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the birth of Dr. Dorothy Irene Height. For nearly half a century, Dorothy Height has served as a leader in the struggle for equality and human rights. Living by example, her life's work has and will remain a testament to her vision for a just and equitable world for all people.

Born in Richmond, Virginia on March 24, 1912 she moved to Rankin, Pennsylvania, with her parents, at the age of four. Dr. Height demonstrated her intelligence, focus and astonishing oratorical skills early on, winning scholarships and competitions that would aid her in the pursuit of both a bachelors and masters degree, which she completed in four years, at New York University.

Dr. Height's career as an activist began when she joined the National Council for Negro Women in 1937. At the time Dr. Height was working as a caseworker for the welfare department in New York. She would go on to join the national staff of the YWCA, serve as

national president of Delta Sigma Theta, Incorporated from 1946–1957. Throughout her tenure in these capacities Dr. Height developed leadership training programs, interracial and ecumenical educational programs, and a series of programs—like “Wednesdays in Mississippi”—designed to bring together people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds to create a dialogue of understanding.

Beyond championing a vision of equality and justice for the United States, Dr. Height is renowned for her extensive international and developmental work in education. In her illustrious career she has worked as a national leader, served on numerous appointed committees, and received numerous awards and accolades.

It is with great personal joy that I recognize and celebrate the birth anniversary of Dorothy Irene Height, a living legend and a treasure to us all.

IN HONOR OF LUIS VALDEZ

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2007*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Luis Valdez of San Juan Bautista, California, who will be inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Theatre on April 22 at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts here in Washington, DC. The 124 current members include playwright Edward Albee and Broadway director Jack O'Brien. Like those before him, Luis is to be honored for his contribution to American theater.

His has been a “career of firsts.” His play “Zoot Suit” was the first play written by a Chicano to be produced on Broadway. His movie “La Bamba,” about the life of the 1950's rock 'n' roll star Ritchie Valens, won popular acclaim, and was the first film written and directed by a Chicano that was produced by a major motion picture company.

As a child, Luis emigrated from Mexico with his family and became a migrant farm worker. In 1965, he founded El Teatro Campesino, which means “The Farm Worker's Theater.” He chose to create this theater in rural San Juan Bautista instead of moving to a big city in order to stay in touch with his roots and remain a true theater of farm workers.

Luis has three sons, all of whom are involved in the arts. “I have to stress the importance of family in my life,” he said. He has won several awards, including the Presidential Medal of the Arts from the White House, but says, “I'm proudest of my family. I consider myself to be quite blessed in that regard.”

Luis believes that art should have a message, and inspiring people to make changes in their lives has been one of his main goals in the theater. He recently produced a play for the Monterey Bay Aquarium about the dangers of pollution.

Madam Speaker, it is a tremendous honor for a national organization of any kind to seek out a resident of a small town for their highest award. Luis Valdez came from humble beginnings, and in spite of his remarkable accomplishments, he remains a humble man. I am proud to congratulate Luis on his election to the College of Fellows of the American Theatre.

RECOGNIZING JOSHUA ABERNATHY FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua Abernathy, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 264, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joshua has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joshua has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joshua Abernathy for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING BARBARA S. AUSTIN ELEMENTARY UPON ITS 20TH-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

### HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2007*

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara S. Austin Elementary, "Home of the Austin Mustangs" for its 20th anniversary of providing a superb education for the students of Coppell, Texas.

Barbara S. Austin Elementary School is proud to celebrate 20 years of excellence in education. Nestled in the center of Coppell, Texas, Austin Elementary is a neighborhood school that has provided thousands of students with an outstanding learning experience over the years.

Named after Barbara S. Austin, an actively involved community leader who served on the Coppell Independent School District Board of Trustees, Austin Elementary opened its doors in the fall of 1987 with over 500 students. Once a small community with one school housing kindergarten through twelfth grade, by August of 1987 Coppell had grown to include three elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school. Austin Elementary was the first elementary school built with the new architectural plan that led the way for the additional seven elementary schools added over the next 10 years.

Mustang pride and the school motto, "Just for today, I will do my best!", are part of Austin's heritage. It has a student body comprised of a diverse mix of energetic students, parents who are supportive and involved in their children's education, and a dedicated and committed staff who do everything in their power to ensure success for all students.

In honor of this special anniversary, Austin Elementary is creating a "Thanks for the Memories" personalized brick patio to commemorate the many teachers and families that have been a part of Austin Elementary over the past 20 years. On April 29, 2007 at 2:30

p.m., a dedication ceremony will take place and all current and former staff, students and parents are invited to share in this celebration.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to honor the 20th anniversary of Barbara S. Austin Elementary School.

THE 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING

### HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2007*

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, this Wednesday, April 19, 2007 marks the 12th anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing that claimed 168 lives and left over 800 injured. 19 of the victims were children. On the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing, I want to acknowledge those who lost their lives as well as the family and friends left behind. I further acknowledge the selfless sacrifice and courage Oklahoma City family members made in their embrace of 9/11 family members following the attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001. The exchange that has taken place since that time is great evidence of how Americans come together in time of need.

Let us never forget those who lost their lives on this day of infamy as well as the living who have been so profoundly affected by this national tragedy.

TRIBUTE TO ARMAND "SKIP" BECOTTE, JR.

### HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2007*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, last Friday, while we were in recess, the Massachusetts Lions Club held a very well-deserved testimonial for Armand "Skip" Becotte, Jr., who lives in the town of Fairhaven, Massachusetts, in the district I am privileged to represent.

Madam Speaker, as many Members know, the Lions Club has made as its highest priority helping people deal with health problems, particularly in the area of eyesight. They have also worked on hearing related issues. Personally, Skip Becotte has taken as his motto the words of the great Helen Keller, in her address to the Lions Club, "Help me hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness; no little deaf, blind child untought; no blind man or woman unaided. I appeal to you Lions, you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind. Will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness?"

Currently Skip Becotte is the District Governor for the Massachusetts Lions District 33S, which includes much of Southeastern Massachusetts, including all of Cape Cod and much of the district that I represent. During his governorship the Lions in District 33S have given nearly \$200,000 to the Perkins School for the Blind, Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Joslin Diabetes Center, New England Eye Center, Schepens Eye Research Institute and many other institutions.

Madam Speaker, Skip Becotte—winner of the Melvin Jones Fellow Award for outstanding service in 2001—is an extraordinary man. A retired police officer and father of five, his life exemplifies service to others. I congratulate the Lions Club for honoring this man and I am glad to share with my colleagues the story of his work because it is an inspiration to all.

HONORING THE FORT KNOX VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE

### HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to the men and women who work in the Fort Knox Veteran Service Office. These dedicated individuals from my congressional district are deserving of our respect and admiration.

Recent global events have rightfully renewed our focus on those brave men and women, past and present, who have answered our Nation's call to service. In times of war and in times of peace we must always show our gratitude for those who have worn the uniform of the United States military.

Through their work at the Fort Knox Veteran Service Office, Paul Schisser, Clint Meshew, Jaydean Maschak, and Mildred Meshew have made it their mission to assist fellow veterans and their survivors in obtaining benefits they have earned. Collectively, the group helped over 900 individuals in Kentucky's Second Congressional District in 2006.

As the home of Fort Knox, my district has a high population of veterans. Our government has a special responsibility to support programs and initiatives that ensure premium health care and economic stability for those Americans who stood selflessly in harm's way to preserve our most fundamental freedoms. The Fort Knox Veteran Service Office continues to do exemplary work supporting this important endeavor.

It is my great privilege to honor Paul Schisser, Clint Meshew, Jaydean Maschak, and Mildred Meshew today before the entire House of Representatives for their continued service to our country helping fellow veterans and their survivors who need their support. They are a group of outstanding citizens worthy of our collective honor and appreciation.

IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP ARETHA E. MORTON

### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 16, 2007*

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Aretha E. Morton for being appointed as State Bishop for my home state of Delaware in 2006.

This great honor has been bestowed upon her due to her long-standing dedication to the Baptist church. I congratulate Bishop Aretha E. Morton on an outstanding career in ministry. She began her career by singing and recording in several different Gospel groups. By